Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

August 27, 2020

Robert R. Redfield, MD Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 395 E Street, SW, Suite 9100 Washington, DC 20201

Dear Director Redfield.

We wanted to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude for your work on the COVID-19 response. Your tireless effort to keep our country safe and healthy during this unprecedented pandemic continues to show the importance of your ongoing work with this emergency response.

The communicable nature of COVID-19 is such that cultural moments, family milestones, celebrations and times of remembrance and loss have not been able to happen. Much of our country continues to sacrifice these moments of closeness and tradition for the greater good and health of our nation and citizens. With autumn fast approaching, and as we look ahead to an uncertain future, it's important that we leverage all our resources to make sure that all Americans are safe on Halloween, a time when families and friends across the country have traditionally gathered in large numbers. Marking such moments throughout the year is truly indicative of the well-being of our nation. We are writing to ask you to update your Halloween safety guidance to include considerations related to COVID-19 so that Americans across the country know how to celebrate the Halloween season safely this year.

With the appropriate guidance from the CDC, Americans can celebrate Halloween throughout the month of October in ways that prioritize community safety and adhere to rigorous socially distancing requirements. Even as we approach the Halloween season differently this year, we know that it is more important than ever as we create a new normal – together.

We request that CDC publicly comment on the advisability of community activities such as video costume parties, leaving packages of sweet treats for friends and neighbors to pick up, and setting up 'drive-through' trick-or-treat venues where children can dress up in their costumes, wear their masks, and receive treats without having to go near those outside of their family unit. It is clear the American people would also welcome any additional guidance or suggestions that would help them celebrate with family and friends at a distance this year.

We urge you to please consider the development of practical guidelines for how Americans and their families can celebrate Halloween this year without increasing exposure risk to COVID-19. We understand you are working on this, and we appreciate that. We anticipate your guidance will include ways for people to be safe and still enjoy the Halloween season throughout the month of October.

Thank you for considering this as you continue to provide guidance to our country through these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

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